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**Remarks**

The Office Action mailed January 28, 2004, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1-12, 14, 15 and 17-26 are pending. Claims 1-12, 14, 15, 17-19 and 23 are allowed. Claims 20-22 and 24-26 stand rejected. Claims 20-22 and 24-26 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

**Drawings**

The drawings were objected to because newly submitted FIG. 1 did not contain sequence identifiers which were present in the original drawing. FIG. 1 has been amended to include both the original SEQ ID NO. references noted in the originally filed figure, and the corresponding column references (II-1, II-2, II-3 and II-4) as amended in the Response dated October 28, 2003. No new matter is added.

**Rejection under 35 USC §102/103**

Claims 20-22 and 24-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Fahy (WO 96/30545) and Lundberg et al. (Gene, vol. 108, pp. 1-6, 1991). Claims 20-22 and 24-26 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, the rejection of these claims is moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

**Conclusion**

Claims 1 through 12, 14, 15, 17-19 and 23 have been indicated as allowable. No other claims are currently pending in the present application. Thus, a timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance in this case is therefore respectfully requested. Should the Office determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, it is respectfully invited to contact applicant's attorney of record at the address or telephone number given herein.

Respectfully submitted,



Krista Weber Powell  
Registration No. 47,867  
Attorney for Applicant  
TRASKBRITT  
P.O. Box 2550  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2550  
Telephone: 801-532-1922

Date: March 24, 2004

KWP/lb

Attachment: Replacement Sheet  
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Document in ProLaw

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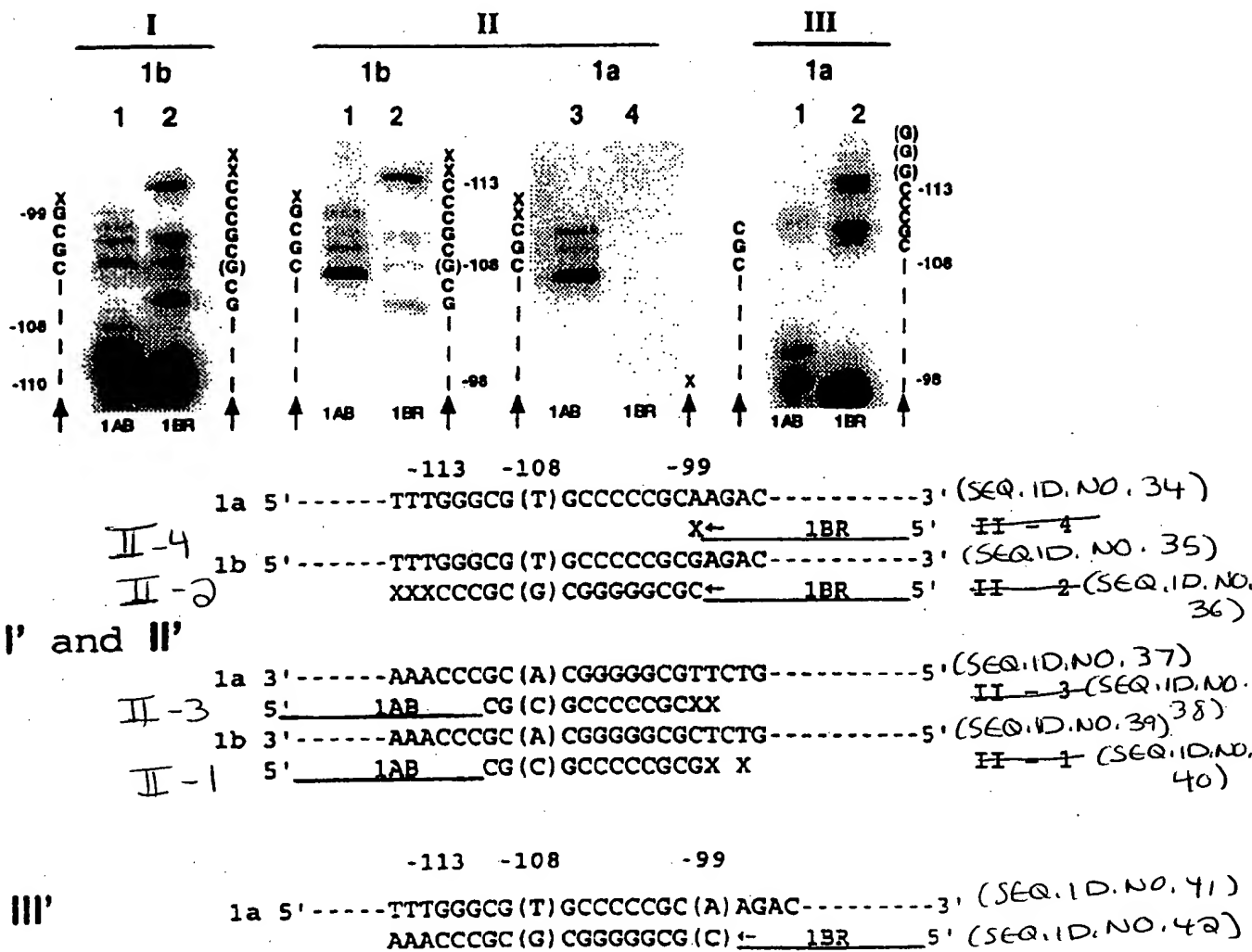


FIG. 1